

From: nicku@nicksbox.tyict.vtc.edu.hk@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/13/02 7:01am
Subject: Microsoft monopoly

Dear Dir/Madam,

Microsoft has a history of attempting to monopolise the market in every way it can. The competition comes from Linux. Any remedy to Microsoft's monopolistic practices should include the following:

- * It is almost totally impossible to buy a computer that does not have Microsoft's operating system installed. This is a major part of the problem. A user who wants to install another operating system must pay for the Microsoft operating system even though it is not desired. The first requirement for a reasonable remedy should require that Microsoft's products should be available as extra-cost options when purchasing new computers. The price that is charged should be the same as that when not purchasing a computer. In this way, real competition could begin.
- * The proprietary formats of Microsoft's document file formats (both current and future) should be made public, so that competing products may read documents created with Microsoft products. This should apply to all the document formats used by all the Microsoft Office products. This is in addition to opening the Windows application program interface (API, the set of "hooks" that allow other parties to write applications for Windows operating systems), which is already part of the proposed settlement.
- * All the Microsoft networking protocols should be published fully, and made available for open source developers to implement. The current proposed settlement limits access to open source development in a way that benefits Microsoft. Open source is the major means of providing competition to Microsoft. The settlement should not exclude open source developers from access to information about Microsoft protocols that can be used directly. Microsoft is not adverse to using open source software, then altering it in minor ways to create a new and incompatible "Microsoft" protocol. See the way Microsoft has "embraced and extended" the Kerberos protocol so that only Microsoft Kerberos servers are compatible with Microsoft clients. You need to take action to prevent Microsoft from embracing and extending the Internet, which till now has been an open environment created by many for the benefit of many, and owned by no one.

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